

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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TRSE-00 SAB-01 COME-00 MC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-12 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 168

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJECT: MFM: ARRIVAL STATEMENTS OF LA FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARRIVING FOR THE MFM YESTERDAY WERE WELCOMED AT THE AIRPORT BY FONSECA RABASA. MOST HAD A BRIEF STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS AND SOME ANSWERED QUESTIONS COMMENTS CITED IN THE PRESS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. VENEZUELAN FONMIN CALVANI IN MANGLED METAPHORS SAID "WE ARE KNOCKING AT THE DOORS OF A RUPTURE OF THE BARRIERS OF SLAVERY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER. THIS IS WHAT WORRIES THE RICH COUNTRIES. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AND ARE CHANGING THE HOUR OF HISTORY." HE WARNED LA NATIONS THAT THE "PRIVILEGED COUNTRIES," AMONG THEM THE US, "ARE TRYING TO DIVIDE THE WORLD AT THIS MOMENT BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS OF PETROLEUM." HE ADDED: "THIS IS A FALLACY. WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE TRUE DIVISION, WHICH IS BETWEEN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPED AND THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES." HE

CALLED FOR AN ADAPTATION OF THE MARXIST THEME, "PROLETARIANS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE" TO "COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE RAW MATERIALS, UNITE IN DEFENSE OF YOUR PRICES AND IN DEFENSE OF JUSTICE TO ACHIEVE A MORE JUST -- OR SIMPLY A JUST -- SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HUMAN INTERNATIONAL ORDER."

3. NICARAGUAN FONMIN MONTIEL ARGUELLO HAD SOFTER WORDS: THE MFM, HE THOUGHT, WOULD PRODUCE "POSITIVE FRUITS" FOR US-LATIN RELATIONS. HE SAID "WE ARE SINCERE FRIENDS OF THE US AND HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH (THAT COUNTRY)."

4. PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK WAS WILLING TO ANSWER REPORTERS QUESTIONS. HE TERMED THE FEBRUARY 7 DECLARATION WHICH HE AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SIGNED A "GUIDE, AN ORIENTATION" BUT HE SAID TOTAL SOVEREIGNTY FOR PANAMA WOULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN "THE COLONIALIST TYPE ENCLAVE IS ELIMINATED FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL." DESPITE HIS RESPONSE TO A QUERY ON CUBA THAT "THAT CAN BE EASILY ANSWERED," HE EVADED A DIRECT COMMENT, SAYING "IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ANALYZE TOO MUCH FOR A SIMPLE PRESS CONFERENCE TO PRODUCE THE DEDUCTIONS WHICH REQUIRE THE ABSENCE OF CUBA FROM THE HEMISPHERE CONFERENCE."

5. COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO IS QUOTED ON CUBA AS FOLLOWS: "IN MY JUDGMENT, THERE IS NO BLOCKADE OF CUBA AND IT WAS NOT IMPOSED BY THE US, SINCE (WHAT IS INVOLVED) WAS A MAJORITY DECISION TAKEN IN THE OAS; WHAT IS CALLED A BLOCKADE WAS A DECISION NOT TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA." HE ADDED THAT THE COSTA RICAN POSITION CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE OAS DECISION, BECAUSE "MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THOSE SANCTIONS NO LONGER EXIST."

6. PARAGUAYAN FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR RECOGNIZED A NEED FOR UPDATING THE DOCUMENTS OF "INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION." AS AN EXAMPLE, HE OBSERVED THAT THE OIL CRISIS REQUIRES THAT ALL NATIONS" UNITE TO DIALOGUE NOT ONLY WITH THE US BUT AMONG OURSELVES." HE SAID THE SUBJECT OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WAS NOT WELL KNOWN IN HIS COUNTRY, BUT HE CONSIDERED SUCH COMPANIES USEFUL. PARAGUAY WILL STUDY CAREFULLY THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL TO FREEZE ARM PURCHASES. HE DID NOT CONSIDER LATIN

AMERICA DISUNITED.

7. BOLIVIAN FONMIN GENERAL GUZMAN SORIANO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE CONFERENCE, BUT DID SAY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND BOLIVIA WERE GOOD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SO. AS TO US INVESTMENT IN BOLIVIA, HE SAID "IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WE HAVE."

8. GUATEMALAN FONMIN ARENALES CATALAN SAID THERE WERE NO "GRAVE PROBLEMS" BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THE US. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE AID "GIVEN TO US IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST" BY THE US WOULD NOT BE REDUCED.

9. HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR POSITIVE AND CONCRETE RESULTS FROM THE CONFERENCE, THOUGHT THE OAS SHOULD BE UPDATED, AND SAID THERE WAS "NO POINT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN" HIS COUNTRY AND THE US.

10. COMMENT: AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE FOREGOING, AIRPORT JOURNALISTS IN THEIR QUESTIONS SOUGHT TO ELICIT NEWS-WORTHY COMMENTS ALONG THE US-LA "WE-THEY" AXIS OR ON THE SUBJECT OF CUBA. ASIDE FROM CALVAN'S STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, MOST OF THE FONMINS COMMENTS REVEAL A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US AND A HOPEFUL OUTLOOK FOR THE CONFERENCE.  
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